

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

A body fluid sampling device 70 according to another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8. As shown, the sampling device 70 includes a housing 72 that encloses a lancing mechanism 74 for forming an incision in the skin S and a sampling mechanism ~~78~~ 76 for collecting a body fluid sample from the incision. The sampling device 70 further includes a trigger 78 for firing the lancing mechanism 74. As will be described in greater detail below, the trigger 78 has a deflection mechanism 80 that deflects the sampling mechanism 76 away from the lancing mechanism 74 during lancing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 7, the lancing mechanism 74 has a firing arm 82 slidably coupled to the housing 72, and a lancet 32 for lancing the skin S is coupled to one end of the firing arm 82. The firing arm 82 has a cocking flange 84 for cocking the lancing mechanism 74. When the lancing mechanism 74 is cocked, a firing spring 86 is compressed between the cocking flange 84 and a spring retainer 88 in the housing 72. The lancing mechanism 74 is retained in the cocked position through a cocking arm 90 that is coupled to the housing 72. As shown, the cocking arm 90 has a tab 92 that engages the cocking flange 84 and a trigger engagement portion 94 that engages the trigger ~~88~~ 78. In the illustrated embodiment, the cocking arm 90 is made of a resilient material, such as a resilient plastic. However, it is contemplated that the cocking arm 90 can be made resilient in other manners, such as by incorporating a spring, for example.